

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 1st, 2024, 7:00pm
Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Wes Cate

Public: None

- Public comments
 - No public in attendance.
- Announcements
 - Anne is working on a series related to the community garden grant. Related to plants and flowers and seed saving.
 - Melissa Seifert is going to help Anne with something about eating locally, or eating storage vegetables.
 - Pruning workshop in March at Nico.
- Agenda modifications
 - Dam status - Nick will reach out to Michael and Mark Mihaly about this.
- Approval of previous minutes.
 - Not enough members who had reviewed these minutes.
- Business
 - Town report - Due January 10th
 - Nick will take care of this and get it sent to Bobbi.
 - Plainfield updates?
 - No one present.
 - Building committee at OSC.
 - Anne mentioned that the heater in the Jaquith was not working, but started working again.
 - Mike went to the selectboard meeting, the OSC building committee doesn't "officially" exist, so they need to have a first meeting, develop a purpose, and then bring that to the selectboard. Mike feels like he is the person who is going to be the chair/organizer for this, so it's on his plate right now.
 - Semi-related to this, Anne mentioned that the OSC is not a handicap accessible building, there are some issues related to that. The downstairs bathroom has an issue, the elevator is broken. Mike mentioned that MERP mini-grant can be applied to "feasibility study" for accessibility.
 - Food shelf freezer updates
 - No updates at this time.
 - MERP updates
 - Mike said no updates on this yet, he is still wondering what is going on. Mike is guessing that Marshfield is low on the list because the town is not heavily "energy burdened".
 - Upper Winooski community solar updates
 - Some occasional emails to each other, not much going on. Everyone is busy with life.
 - Nick mentioned that someone he knows works at maple hill, and that might be of interest.

- Enhanced Energy Plan updates
 - CVRPC had a session in the middle of the day on Dec-21, but Nick was at work so couldn't attend. Nick reached out to Sam Lash to get the municipal targets and GIS data for this.
- Legislative updates
 - None at this time.
- Future areas of work:
 - Purchase IQ Air sensor and make brochure
 - Brochure / Handout:
 - Nick shared a handout that he had written.
 - Anne recommends changing around the brochure to have more specific information at the top of the brochure. May make more sense once we select a sensor.
 - Mike mentioned adding a link in the brochure / handout for the state radon program for how to get a free radon tests.
 - Anne also suggested making a short write up for the overdue news to promote the air sensor.
 - Nick talked a bit about some sensor options, some are "comprehensive," some are more specialized.
 - Mike has a customer who has done some comparisons, and found the IQ Air sensor was good. Mike also likes the comprehensive nature of this and thinks its a good fit for loaning out from the library.
 - Mike suggested maybe the MERP minigrant could be used to purchase indoor air quality sensors as an educational item.
 - Anne also suggested that the state offers water testing kits. This was a stat requested seminar, Anne is going to get some more details.
 - More solar for Marshfield, and MERP may help here.
 - Variable speed pumps / evaluate efficiency of town waste & water facilities
 - Thank you event / something for Susan
 - Areas for education / interaction with community members around energy, heat, efficiency, climate, etc.
 - Electric Vehicle charging at the OSC.

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